

P. O. BOX



Update on the Happenings of HCFA's Managed Care Systems and Support Operations

Health Plan Payment and Operations Support, CHPP - Health Care Financing Administration

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MAILING OF LOCK-IN NOTICES BY HCFA ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 1999

As of November 30th 1999, HCFA terminated the production and funding of the lock-in notices. M+C organizations will be the sole provider responsible for the issuance of the lock-in letters to newly enrolled Medicare members. The lock-in notice reminds beneficiaries of their enrollment in a Medicare risk-based health plan and the need to receive care through that

organization. HCFA's Center for Beneficiary Services (CBS) has provided the guidelines in the model letter language to the M+C organizations, The HCFA Regional Offices will monitor any activity of lock-in notices and mailings.



EMPLOYER GROUP HEALTH PLAN (EGHP) RETROACTIVE ENROLLMENTS

There have been issues raised over the retroactive enrollment period allowed for EGHP enrollment. EGHP enrollments may be submitted with effective dates up to 90 days retroactive of the current payment date. The payment provisions 422.250(b)(2)(i) clarify that any adjustments



may not exceed 90 days, and are for a period that begins when a beneficiary enrolls in a group health plan. By Law, the earliest date a retroactive employer group enrollment may be effective is the first of the month after the member signs the EGHP enrollment form. This is not to be confused with when an election is "made" which, as described in 422.60(d), is when the election form is received by the M+C organization.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 BBA USER FEE

HCFA has established the FY 2000 Balanced Budget Act (BBA) User Fee Percentage at 0.355 percent. This percentage will be collected from gross monthly capitation payments beginning with the January 2000 payment to eligible M+C contracts. This means starting January 2000 payment through September 2000 HCFA will assess those M+Cs subject to the user fee an amount equal to 0.355% of the total calculated monthly payments until the \$95

million in total fees has been collected.

ANNUAL HCFA MANAGED CARE ENROLLMENT AND PAYMENT CONFERENCE

The Center for Health Plans and Providers (CHPP) Annual Managed Care Enrollment and Payment Conference was held on September 22-24, 1999, at the HCFA's National Headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland. The



purpose of the conference was to train Managed Care Organization's (MCO's) – pending, new, and established -

on the enrollment and payment process, and to make available the most recent information on HCFA's systems initiatives. Participants shared in the experiences of key-speakers from the Managed Care Industry and HCFA's Regional offices. Participants gained knowledge on how other MCO's addressed enrollment and related issues, gained an insight on the role of HCFA's regional staff in the enrollment and disenrollment process, and received answers to

specific questions and issues from experienced HCFA staff. In addition, HCFA discussed new initiatives such as the Encounter Data and Risk Adjustments. Many participants took advantage of available workshops that addressed HCFA's enrollment processes. The evaluations, suggestions and comments received in this year's conference not only indicated it was well attended, but also was well received.

The Conference Planning Team has begun planning for the 2000 Conference. We will provide you with more information when it is available. The suggestions received from the 1999 conference are under review. One suggestion, that is being given strong consideration, is to hold the conference at an off-site location. Check the HCFA website (www.hcfa.gov/medicare/systinfo.htm) for conference news and updates.

We appreciate your interest in helping us strengthen the upcoming conference. This will ultimately insure that the needs and concerns of our shared customers, the beneficiaries, will be addressed.

Look forward to seeing you at the 2000 Conference.

OODLES OF

DISCOVERIES

GETTING RAILROAD RETIREE WORKING AGED PERIODS CORRECTED

Prior to October 1999, we received notice that Railroad retirees claim numbers were not being accepted by the Common Working File (CWF) and plans were receiving SP12 codes on plan-submitted working aged transactions. If you have had SP12 codes shown on your Working aged transactions, please resubmit these transactions to receive proper adjustments.

SYNCHRONIZATION OF THE HCFA DOMAIN AND THE HCFA MAINFRAME PASSWORDS

Did you know that your HCFA User-ID and Password go hand-in-hand? Whatever your password is at the HCFA Domain will be the same for your HDC Mainframe Application.

Example: The HCFA User is at the HDC Application Menu (you have already connected to HCFA via the Net). You will select either TSO (menu selection #1) or MCCOY (menu selection #5), and then be prompted to change your password. On the right side of the

panel (New password), change your password here (**must be 6-8 characters in length and don't use your old password**). The next time you logon to the HCFA Domain the password that was changed at the HCFA mainframe application will be your **new password** for the HCFA domain.

When the password is changed to a new password, this change overrides the HCFA domain password causing them to be synchronized. The end result is **one password** instead of two separate passwords.



HINT: Remember when you change your HDC mainframe password this will also change your HCFA domain password.

This is not the password for the Common Working File (CWF). The CWF password is issued from a totally different source. Please call the CWF Host Contact to have your password issued/reset. If you don't know your CWF Host contact, please call the HPPO Action Desk at (410) 786-7613.

TN3270 PROMPT FOR USER-ID/PASSWORD--TWO BOXES VERSUS THREE BOXES

If you have noticed a change in your prompt through the Private Internet (TN3270) from two boxes to three boxes your site server or system maintenance may have recently been upgraded. This will affect plans using the IBM Global Network Software--4.0 or higher. Please follow the **HINT** below to aide you in entering the correct information at the prompt.

HINT: Two Boxes--ENTER AT FIRST BOX -- HCFA.GOV/XXXX(XXXX is your HCFA User-ID) ENTER AT SECOND BOX--Your Current Password

CLICK OK when finished entering the above information.

Three Boxes--ENTER AT FIRST BOX--User-ID(XXXX) only ENTER AT SECOND BOX--Your Current Password ENTER AT THIRD BOX--HCFA.GOV CLICK OK when finished entering the above information.

CORRECTED PLAN PAYMENT LETTERS FOR JANUARY 1, 2000

The Balance Budget Act (BBA) user fee was not included in the Plan Payment Letter released on December 20. This was corrected and new payment letters were

processed and put in GROUCH on December 23, which included the user fee deduction.